

NOTES FOR QUESTIONS AND ISSUES SHEET: INPUT PROGRAM #4: "VIOLENCE FOR BREAKFAST"

1. If human beings have a potential for both violent and peaceful action, is not cultural and institutional exhortation to and support of peaceful action an indispensable priority for the establishment of peace and domestic justice.
2. How can people be inspired, inclined or motivated toward peaceful action when religion, government, education, mass media, toys etc., exalt and support the violent defense or imposition of class, national and cultural values above the universal human values of love, brotherhood and cooperation?
3. Who controls the decision-making in the press, schools, entertainment and education media, toy manufacturing, etc. where violence is emphasized? How can conditioning by our institutions for acceptance of violence be counteracted by those committed to peaceful action?
4. What specifically can the religious bodies do to exert positive influence to counteract the current emphasis on violence?
5. How can human beings become liberated from ideas of group superiority, fear and violence so they can be free to work for universal human and religious values?
6. How can conditioning for the acceptance of violence be prevented without violating the First Amendment right of freedom of speech?
7. To what degree do you see the following as inducing or escalating a climate which acquiesces to or justifies violence?
 - Excessive use of force by federal, state and local authorities against civilians;
 - Increasing military domination of our national posture and foreign policy;
 - Emphasis on military victory, rather than negotiated settlement of differences;
 - Development of remote weapons such as missiles and stoner guns, which depersonalize the act of killing;
 - Cultural patterns which equate masculinity with aggressive behavior or brute force;
 - Emphasis in fiction on sensational or psycho-sexual aspects of violence in magazines, books, TV and movies, as well as in advertising;
 - Popularized psychology articles quizzes and catch-words;
8. What accounts for the fear, depersonalization, apathy and refusal to become involved, which immobilizes people from opposing excessive use of force?
9. Does the glorification of violence deepen the religious and moral dichotomy between just and unjust violence

